

# CAITHNESS BROCH PROJECT

## CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

### FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 2019 TO OCTOBER 2020

The pandemic has not slowed the project greatly and we are glad to report that none of us had covid. If anything, the push towards online meetings and presentations has saved time and money, and enabled us to widen our outreach programme of talks to new audiences around the UK and throughout the world.

Taking our AGM online was also deemed a success, again with a wide dispersion of participants.

We made slow but steady progress on our main project: building a replica broch. Our consultants are Hoskins Architects supported by Jura Consultants, Doig and Smith QS, and Cundall engineers. Two Hoskins architects paid us a visit to look at shortlisted sites, which we managed to accomplish while social distancing. This was inspirational for them and good team building for us. Progress was made on narrowing down the shortlist with the input of the consultant team. Their report is sitting as a draft until we further narrow the shortlist to make sure we can get the most out of this phase. The consultants have been very accommodating to our extended timescales.

We worked with Bob Marshall, historical reconstruction artist and illustrator, on the detail design of the broch and broch village. This is both a design exercise that will feed into the architectural and engineering designs, and also a graphical exercise for communication of our aims.

Our project to conserve the broch at Ousdale was completed over the winter of 2019, delivered late due to a late start, but under budget, and to the satisfaction of HES and the landowner. Some of the funding was reallocated for site maintenance and the installation of a CCTV camera which is our response to fly tipping in the new car park.

It was agreed at the last AGM to sell merchandise through a limited number of local shops on a more commercial basis. The other main change we have started to consider is drop-shipping merchandise from direct-to-garment printers, which means that we would no longer be keeping stock of most of our products. Managing stock has always been a problem for the Project. This will be sold through our new website. We have been communicating with various website designers about making us a new website to replace our current one, which has served us well but is not keeping up with our ambitions and the image we want to project.

Our fantasy-style map was readied for production and we took pre-orders to allow us to optimise printer costs and stock levels. We designed a tourist leaflet to showcase the map and tie into an online version which will launch properly with the new website.

CBP reserves are sufficient to cover the current project work, but will need to build up over future years in the expectation of managing larger value projects.

### **DIRECTORS DURING THIS PERIOD:**

Robin Herrick (chair), Iain Maclean (vice-chair), Chris Aitken, Joanne Howdle, Dawn Mackay, Pete MacRae, Kenneth McElroy

### **NON-DIRECTOR POST-HOLDERS:**

Sara Herrick (Treasurer & Membership Secretary)

## CAITHNESS BROCH PROJECT

### THE YEAR IN BRIEF:

Month	Activity
October	Golspie Heritage Talk
	Lyth Arts Centre Broch Art Exhibition and Talks
	Episcopal Church Talk
November	Ousdale Site Meeting
	Bannockburn Centre Talk
	Presentation to Caithness Councillors in Caithness House
	Ousdale Site Meeting
December	Hoskins/Jura Meeting
	AGM
January	Broch Site Mid-List Review Meeting (Hoskins/Jura)
	Hoskins Workshop
	Ousdale Path Site Meeting
February	Ousdale HES Site Meeting
	Lyth Hall Talk
	Perth UHI History and Archaeology Society Talk
	Girl Guides, Wick Talk
	Ousdale Engineer Site Meeting
	Ousdale with BBC - Interviews
	University of Glasgow Students Talk
March	Keiss WRI Talk
	Ousdale Final Archaeology Survey
	Ousdale Site Inspection
	Ousdale Path Site Meeting
	Hoskins Meeting
April	Dunnet WRI Talk
	Hoskins Meeting
May	ArchaeoPodCast
	Broch Centre Talk
July	Site Selection Meeting
	History Guys Podcast
	The Trepanned Skull - Highland Objects Podcast Seven
	Hoskins Meeting
	Colour In Book Meeting
	Cundalls, Broch Engineering Meeting
August	Hoskins/Jura Site Visits
	Leaflet Meeting
	Castlehill Site Meeting
	Hoskins Meeting
	US Funding Meeting
September	Hoskins Meeting
	Broch Centre Talk
	AGM
October	Website Meetings